Minute on the Visit of Africa RISING to Tigray

Date: 19-21 Nov. 2012

Visitors

1. Peter
2. Dr Kiros Meles Hadgu
3. Gebrehiwot Hailemariam

Offices visited

1. **TARI:**

Person met:

1. Mehari Woldu (mechanization and acting DG,
2. Dr. G/Michael Niguse Socio-economics and technology dissemination
3. Awet Estifanos Livestock Director

After the briefing about the project objectives and possible collaborations during project implementation by Peter, TARI staffs have explained that they have crop, livestock, NRM, socio-economics and mechanization with 7 research centers in different agro-ecologies, among which Alamata Agricultural research center is working in the project woreda. Current activities being implemented were also highlighted by the staff. They expressed their willingness to participate in the project implementation. They have also explained the experience that they gained from Operational research in participatory research approaches and partnerships. So they need to be informed about the tentative schedule as early as possible so that they will include in the 2012/13 action plan of TARI.

Peter has agreed to send some of the project documents including the approaches of the project and inform them the tentative dates as early as possible.

1. **BoARD**

Person met: Ato Fiseha Bezabih (Agricultural Extension core process owner)

Ato Fiseha has explained his wory about the woreda selection. The current woreda has so many projects and NGOs such as the CASCAPE, AGP, HAMDE, REST, ATA. According to him the region could have been consulted during site selection. But finally we have agreed that we will select kebeles not under the projects and work in partnership with the existing projects to avoid redundancy. He has also commented that the project should try to think ‘outside the box’ (try to introduce new innovations based on the existing gaps to increase productivity and resilience).

1. **MU**

Person met: Dr Girmay Tesfay (Dean of College of Agriculture)

MU is implementing CASCAPE project in Endamekoni in two kebeles namely Mekan and Simret conducting adaptation and demonstration trials on cereals (wheat and barley) and pulses (disease management).

1. **Tigray Southern Zone**

Person met: ATo AchamyelehAsefa (agricultural department head)

the admin head of the zone was having meetings so he has connected the visitors to Ato Achamyeleh. Achamyeleh welcomed the visitors, expressed their willingness to collaborate during the project implementation and suggested Emba hasti and Tisbet kebeles. The first kebele has access to market with established market on roadside and the second kebele is less accessible to market.

1. **Endamekoni Woreda**

Person met: Ato Haftu Welamo (woreda administrator). Ato haftu welcomed the group and suggested the above two kebeles as well.

1. **Alamata Agri Research Center**

Person met: Ato Teklay (center manager)

He has explained his willingness to work in close collaboration with the project and the center manpower staffing is 6 crop researchers (5 MSc and 1 Bsc), 3 livestock researchers (2 Msc and 1 Bsc), 2 NRM researchers all Bsc, 3 socio-economics researchers all Bsc) and 7 support staff.

1. **Emba hasti Kebele (potential candidate)**

Person met: Foten-DA

Altitude of tabia 2874 masl

Cultivated land 835.75 with 90 ha irrigated but the plan for the coming year is 220 ha to be irrigated from shallow wells and diversion (spring development)

Population 823 household heads (514 male and 309 female)

Livestock population: 76 cross-bred cows, 3250 cattle, 5090 shoats, 4290 chiken (1050 improved and 3240 local)

Major crops: under rainfed: barley, wheat faaba bean, fieldpea, linseed, lentil

Under irrigation: maize, cabage, carrot, ‘sasila’, potato, lettuce and fruit trees such as apple and ‘Gesho’

We visited model farmer farm (female headed household) named W/ro Mebrehten Niguse with carrot, apple trees and forage food in the homestead. She was also exercising cut and carry system to the cattle and shared-n male farmers plot. She has also morethan 300 eucalyptus trees as source of cash.

1. **Tsibet kebele (potential candidate)**

Person met:

1. Birhan Negash (Livestock DA-0914444320)
2. Tigist Demse (Crop DA 0914113397)
3. Gubena Reda (NRM DA 0914109713)

Altitude: 3070 masl in the FTC.

The village has 4 villages namely Shemat, Belago, Gira Haile and L/tsibet. Out of which Belago is easily accessible.

Population 1107 HHH (854 male and 253 female). Total population is 5296 (2533 male and 2763 female).

Land use forest 1078ha, irrigable 53.5 ha, cultivable land 1038 ha, residence 220ha, grazing land 28.5 ha, area closure 70ha.

Livestock population:

* Cows – 1113
* Ox – 1294
* Sheeps 4577
* Goats – 984
* Chicken – 2035
* Horse – 93
* Donkey – 813
* Mule – 7
* Modern bee hive –28
* Traditional bee hive - 158

Major crops:

* rainfed crops: barley, pulses and wheat
* vegetables under irrig: potato, ‘sasila’, carrot, head cabage
* fruit trees: apple and forage such as elephant grass, phalaris, cow pea/pigeon pea

The kebele has less access road and it is about 3 hours walking distance to the zonal town.